



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing**

**&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Monday, April 11, 2016

7:00 PM

Agenda:

1. **Registration**
Voting Instructions page 4
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2. **WCC – Delegate Elections** WCC Delegate(s)
Conservation Congress Delegate Election Process page 3
3. **DNR – Deer Research Update** DNR Wildlife Expert
4. **County Deer Advisory Council Update** WCC CDAC Chair
2016 Preliminary County Deer Permit Recommendation page 8
5. **DNR – Wildlife and Fisheries Public Hearing** DNR Hearing Officer
DNR Wildlife Proposed Rule Changes page 10
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6. **Natural Resources Board Advisory Questions** page 15
7. **Citizen Resolutions** WCC Delegate(s)
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How to Write a Resolution & Sample Resolution page 31
8. **Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting** WCC Delegate(s)
Conservation Congress Advisory Questions page 18

This hearing is not a debate but rather an opportunity for public input. Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive, the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 11, 2016.

**The results of the 2016 Spring Hearings will be available online
as soon as they are compiled.
Visit dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”**

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WCC Delegate Elections

The delegate elections take place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring Hearing/County Conservation Meeting.

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age, you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. Proof of residency within the county is required in order to receive ballots to vote for delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- ☐ 2-Year Term ballot
- ☐ 2-Year Term run-off ballot

2-YEAR ELECTION BALLOT 2-YEAR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS I vote for the above named individual to serve a two-year term on the WCC.

- ☐ 3-Year Term ballot
- ☐ 3-Year Term run-off ballot

3-YEAR ELECTION BALLOT 3-YEAR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS I vote for the above named individual to serve a three-year term on the WCC.

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate a peer.

Nominees have the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how they could best represent their county, and serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

As a county delegate, you agree to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Citizens in attendance at the county congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected, they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) of participating voters in attendance.

Delegate Eligibility

Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin, and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange of ideas concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening.

A delegate must:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county he or she wishes to represent. To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same town, city or village.
- Be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
 - Attending two district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting with the annual spring hearings in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
 - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis, and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.
 - Possibly serving as chair or alternate chair of their County Deer Advisory Council.

NOTE: The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

Statewide Electronic Balloting

To ensure that you are able to provide your input on the proposals presented, make sure you read the instructions below before voting.

After you have registered, you will be provided with

- ☒ a **white ballot** for the Department of Natural Resources proposed Wildlife & Fisheries advisory and rule change questions, Natural Resources Board advisory question, and Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions.
- ☒ a **blue ballot** for any citizen introduced resolutions.

In order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

- Use a PENCIL on ballots - **not pen**
- DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot
- If you DO NOT follow these directions your ballot may not be readable and therefore may not be counted.

Please see the following examples of the use of the ballots.

Sample **WHITE BALLOT**:

The white ballot is for Department of Natural Resources proposed rule changes and advisory questions, Natural Resources Board advisory questions, and Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions in the questionnaire.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

To vote on a question, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

Question 1:	Question 18:	Question 35:
YES	YES	YES
NO	NO	NO

Question 2:	Question 19:	Question 36:
YES	YES	YES
NO	NO	NO

Question 3:	Question 20:	Question 37:
YES	YES	YES



Question 1: Do you support changing the date of the ruffed grouse season?

1. YES _____ No _____



















If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.

Sample BLUE BALLOT:
The blue ballot is for citizen resolutions that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

**CONSERVATION CONGRESS
SPRING HEARING RESOLUTIONS**

To vote on a question, complete the arrow  to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow  to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

Resolution 1: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>	Resolution 18: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>	Resolution 35: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>
Resolution 2: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>	Resolution 19: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>	Resolution 36: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>
Resolution 3: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>	Resolution 20: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>	Resolution 37: <div style="text-align: center;">YES </div> <div style="text-align: center;">NO </div>

Resolution 1: BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Your County on Month, Date, Year, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season?

1. YES _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.



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magazine

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BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2016, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Department of Natural Resources Rule and Informational Hearing and Conservation Congress County Meeting will convene. Immediately following the close of the Conservation Congress County Meeting, the WCC delegates (including those newly elected) will meet to elect the county delegation's chair and vice-chair.

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a public hearing on a permanent rule to revise ch.'s NR 10 and NR 45, Wis. Admin. Code related to use of tree stands and blinds on department managed lands and a description of the legal times for hunting at the time and place shown below. This rule proposal would allow the overnight placement of tree stands and ground blinds on lands which are managed by the Department of Natural Resources and located North of State Highway 64. For clarity of meaning, these rules would also change the way the department describes the times of day when hunting is allowed for certain species, potentially identifying them as "shooting hours" rather than "hunting hours."

<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/ProposedPermanent.html>

Additionally, informational meetings will be held by the department at the same time and place. The purpose of this portion of the meeting will be to conduct voting on fisheries and wildlife management related advisory questions which are being asked in order to gauge public opinion.

The public hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room, 400 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron County Government Center, 330 E LaSalle Avenue, Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Drummond High School, Auditorium, 52440 Eastern Avenue, Drummond, WI 54832
Brown	Northeast Wisconsin Tech. College, Lecture Hall SC132, 2740 W Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54307
Buffalo	Alma High School, S1618 State Road 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Highway K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, Room B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, Cafeteria via Door #1, 750 Tropicana Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, Cafetorium, 306 W Central Avenue, Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Portage High School, Auditorium, 301 E Collins Street, Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium, 800 E Crawford Street, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Waunakee H.S., Performing Arts Center via Door #1, 301 Community Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597
Dodge	Horicon Marsh Education & Visitor Center, Auditorium, N7725 State Highway 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, Commons, 1230 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Superior High School, Cafeteria, 2600 Catlin Avenue, Superior, WI 54880
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1600 Pine Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	CVTC Business Ed Center, Casper Room 103, 620 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, 5631 Forestry Drive, Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Forest	Crandon High School, 9750 U.S. Hwy 8, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, Enter via North-side Door, 1510 13th Street, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Multi-purpose Room, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W Margaret Street, Mercer, WI 54547
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Center, 503 N Jackson Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549
Juneau	Olson Middle School, Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol School District #1, Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Little Theater, 911 3rd Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Performing Arts Center, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School, Large Group Room, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theatre, 1900 Tenth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409

Lincoln	Merrill High School, Auditorium, 1201 N Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Manitowoc	UW Manitowoc, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marathon	DC Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476
Marquette	Wausaukee High School, Auditorium, N11941 Highway 141, Wausaukee, WI 54177
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Greenfield High School, Performing Arts Center, 4800 S 60th Street, Greenfield, WI 53220
Monroe	Meadowview Middle School, Cafetorium, 1225 N Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma Street, Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Appleton North High School, Auditorium, 5000 North Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54913
Ozaukee	Webster Transitional School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, 740 7th Avenue West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth High School, Cafeteria, 323 Hillcrest Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School, Auditorium, 1908 State Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	Price County Courthouse, Room 101, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School, Auditorium, 3433 S Colony Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Courtroom, 181 W Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Blackhawk Technical College, LL North Commons 1400B, 6004 S Cty Road G, Janesville, WI 53546
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Avenue East, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	Saint Croix Central High School, Commons, 1751 Broadway Street, Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW Baraboo - Sauk County, Giese Lecture Hall A4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Winter High School, Auditorium, 6585 W Grove Street, Winter, WI 54896
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, Room LGI, 1050 S Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan	Plymouth High School, Auditorium, 125 Highland Avenue, Plymouth, WI 53073
Taylor	Taylor County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, Hwy 64/Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Arcadia High School, Commons, 756 Raider Drive, Arcadia, WI 54612
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	Saint Germain Elementary School, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, Large Meeting Room, 150 Cummings Street, Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School, Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca, WI 54981
Wausara	Wausara County Courthouse, Board Room 265, 209 S Saint Marie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville School District Admin. Building, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave, Pittsville, WI 54466

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 1, 2016.

The rules may be reviewed and comments made at <https://health.wisconsin.gov/admrules/public/Home> no later than April 11, 2016.

Comments on the proposed rule changes or DNR Wildlife advisory questions may also be submitted to the agency contact person: Scott Loomans, 101 South Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921; or phone (608) 267-2452; or email scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov.

Comments on DNR Fisheries advisory questions may also be submitted to the agency contact person: Kate Strom Hiorns, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921; or phone (608) 266-5206; or email kathryn.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov.

Written comments, whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail, will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be tallied along with the votes received at the county hearings.

PLEASE NOTE: The proposed rule language will be available for your review at each hearing location and is available online at dnr.wi.gov - search "Spring Hearings."



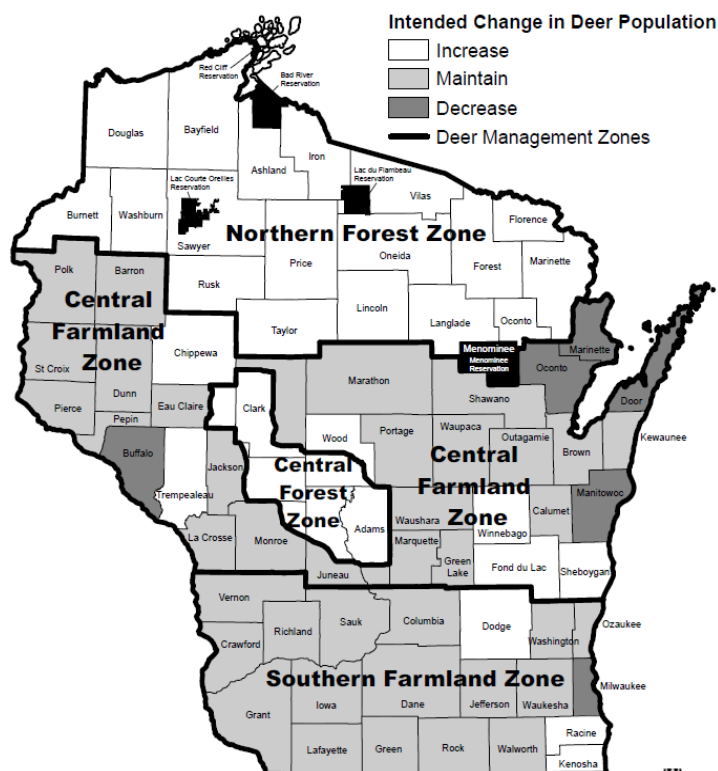
CDAC Spring Quota Recommendations

Your County Deer Advisory Council wants YOUR input on the proposed 2016 antlerless deer quotas

Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html> to provide your comments.

- ➔ *CDACs are groups of public stakeholders that provide deer management recommendations for each county*
- ➔ *Fall of 2014: CDACs formed deer population objective recommendations (increase, decrease or maintain herd size)*
- ➔ *Spring of 2015: CDACs formed antlerless harvest quota recommendations*
- ➔ *Spring of 2016: CDACs will again form antlerless harvest quota recommendations in your county*
- ➔ *For more information on CDACs: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC"*

County Deer Advisory Council 2015 Final Recommendations Deer Population Objectives



Population objectives are not established for tribal reservation units as identified on this map.



CDAC Charter

- Gather public opinion on deer populations and goals, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.
- Review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions.
- Provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.

In an effort to bring deer management closer to the local level, the Department of Natural Resources established a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) for each county in Wisconsin in 2014. Each council provides deer population objective and antlerless harvest quota recommendations to the DNR and Natural Resources Board. Council membership consists of members of the public who represent agriculture, forestry, transportation, tourism,

urban issues, hunting and the Deer Management Assistance Program. Chairs and alternate chairs for the CDACs are selected from among each county's Conservation Congress delegates. Local DNR wildlife, forestry and law enforcement liaisons attend CDAC meetings to provide data and answer questions, but are not voting members. All CDAC meetings are open to the public and offer opportunities to provide public comments.

POPULATION OBJECTIVES The first official CDAC meetings took place during the fall of 2014, during which council members reviewed various aspects of deer herd measurements within their county and developed population objective recommendations. Population objectives describe a trend of increasing, decreasing or maintaining a county's deer herd over a three-year period. CDACs considered stakeholder group input, public comments and county-specific deer herd metrics when developing population objective recommendations.

ANTLERLESS HARVEST QUOTAS Councils are now developing 2016 antlerless harvest quota and permit level recommendations that will be used to achieve the county's population objectives. CDACs consider a variety of indicators including 2015 harvest data, winter severity and public input when forming quota recommendations for the 2016 deer seasons. The first round of meetings to discuss quota recommendations occurs in March. The public comment period on those recommendations will be open April 4-17. CDACs will determine final recommendations for 2016 antlerless quotas and permit levels at their final meeting in April. A list of meeting locations for each county can be found at dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC."

MEMBERSHIP Some councils still have open seats for qualified candidates. If you are interested in applying, visit the CDAC website and determine if your county has seats available. When you are ready to apply, click on the application link. Paper applications may also be available; contact your county's CDAC chair for more information.

CDAC Resources

CDAC website: visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC." The CDAC website is a portal to the meeting schedule, meeting minutes, CDAC recommendations, contact information, and other resources.

- CDAC members and contact information by county: click on the "Find" tab, then enter county name.
- Meeting schedule for spring 2016: click on the "Find" tab, then enter your county name to find meeting schedule, member contact information and county specific data.
- Online public input opportunities: check the CDAC website frequently for updates. Public review of preliminary quota recommendations runs from April 4 – 17, 2016.
- Learn more: check out the frequently asked questions (FAQ tab), or email DNRCDACWebmail@Wisconsin.gov with any other questions.

Important dates: spring meetings will be devoted to quota recommendations.

March 14 – 17 and 21 – 24	Review data and form preliminary 2016 antlerless harvest quota, permit and season structure recommendations.
April 4 – 17	Public comment period.
April 18 – 21	Review public feedback and determine final recommendations.
May 24/25	Recommendations approved at NRB meeting.



Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing

Please utilize the white ballot to provide your input.

PROPOSED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

QUESTIONS 1-3 Allowing the overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on department owned and managed lands north of State Hwy. 64

Currently the overnight, unattended placement of tree stands and ground blinds for hunting is not allowed on department managed lands. This regulation was established to prevent the “staking out” or making advance claims to hunting locations in favor of a first-come-first served practice. However the overnight placement of stands is allowed on many other public lands which are not managed by DNR and may also be practical on department lands.

This proposal would allow the overnight placement of tree stands on DNR managed lands north of State Hwy. 64. Some hunters will appreciate the convenience of not having to carry and place a tree stand or blind for each hunt, especially for an aging demographic of hunters. Others may favor a philosophy of trying to reduce competition on public lands.

Hearing attendees are being asked if they would prefer to allow overnight placement of stands and blinds only for the firearm deer seasons, which includes muzzleloader season, or for a longer period beginning on September 1 and continuing through January 31. Another option could be to limit these rules to a three year trial period which would allow the department to evaluate new rules before making them permanent.

The proposal would require that all unattended tree stands be marked with the owner’s department customer identification number or name and address. It would be illegal to cause damage to a tree, but careful pruning of limbs less than 1 inch in diameter would not be considered causing damage to the tree the stand is placed in. This would not permit cutting trees, brush and other vegetation for shooting lanes. This proposal would clarify that any person may use a stand that is not occupied and being used by the owner and that stand placement does not reserve a location for exclusive use by any individual. However, the owner of the blind or stand would retain the authority to remove and relocate their stand at any time. It would be illegal to relocate a blind or stand that was lawfully placed by another.

The department would survey hunter’s opinions and evaluate concerns once people have experience with a new rule.

1. Do you favor allowing the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on department owned and managed lands located north of State Hwy. 64 beginning on September 1 and continuing through January 31? 1. YES____ NO____

2. Do you favor allowing the unattended, overnight placement of portable stands and blinds on department owned and managed lands located north of State Hwy. 64 but limiting stand placement to only the firearm and muzzleloader deer seasons? 2. YES____ NO____

3. Do you favor a three year trial period for these rules? If implemented, the department would monitor hunter use and concerns during the 2016 to 2018 hunting seasons. If the results are positive, the rule would remain in effect. If the results are negative, the rule could be suspended beginning in 2019. 3. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 4. A rule proposal to establish that the legal hours for taking game be referred to as “shooting hours” rather than “hunting hours”

Hunting for most birds and game animals is restricted to daylight hours. These restrictions may be in place for a variety of reasons related to the safe use of firearms and bows, allowing birds to return to roost sites without hunting pressure, or simply a traditional notion that certain types of hunting should be done in daylight. "Hunting" is defined in statute and includes shooting or shooting at any wild animal. Also included under the definition of hunting is pursuing, taking, capturing or killing or attempting to capture or kill any wild animal.

Under current law, a person may remain in a deer stand after the close of hunting hours, such as to avoid spooking a nearby deer, so long as they are no longer hunting. Some members of the public are concerned however, that merely remaining in the field would cause a law enforcement officer to determine that the person is actually hunting.

The proposal would establish that “shooting” outside of legal hours for taking game is illegal, rather than “hunting” under current rules. This may provide assurance that certain other activities, which do not result in taking or attempting to take game, are not illegal and would not result in law enforcement issuing a citation. This might also provide assurances that it is legal to recover game which was shot legally during daylight but not retrieved until after dark. However, this would make it more difficult to enforce restrictions on the times of day when game may be taken because late hunters would not be in violation of the law until they actually shot at an animal.

4. Do you favor changing hunting regulations so that “shooting” outside of established times is illegal, rather than the current prohibition of “hunting” outside of established times? 4. YES____ NO____

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 5-6. Preferences for issuing antlerless deer hunting permits that are limited in number by the method of first-come-first-served, over-the-counter sales versus issuing permits by taking applications and holding random drawings

In part because antlerless deer harvest opportunities have been relatively limited in certain units, some hunters have asked the department about alternate methods to distribute permits. This question will gauge hunter preferences for two methods currently used for issuing permits.

Permits to hunt species such as bear, turkey, sharp-tailed grouse, and bobcat are currently issued through a random drawing. For these species, there is also a preference system which awards a point for each year that the applicant is unsuccessful in the drawing and applicants with the highest number of points have the highest preference in each year's drawing. There may be a number of advantages to this method of permit issuance including: 1) it assures that the people who have waited the longest for an opportunity to hunt have the highest preference for permits, 2) applicants do not have to wait in lines or take time off work to purchase licenses immediately when they go on sale and, 3) some people perceive that this is the fairest way to issue permits.

Bonus permits for antlerless deer are currently issued over-the-counter on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits go on sale on a particular day and at a certain time in August. In many units, permits are abundant and do not sell out but, in certain units, permits may be more limited in number and they can sell out quickly. There may be a number of advantages to over-the-counter permit issuance including 1) there is no application deadline which can be forgotten, 2) because it is not necessary to apply in advance, a person may have more time to decide where they will hunt and, 3) drawings are not necessary statewide because many units do have enough permits available to meet demand.

5. Do you favor issuing antlerless deer hunting permits on a first-come, first-served basis as is currently done? 5. YES____ NO____

6. Do you favor issuing antlerless deer hunting permits through a random drawing, which would include an application deadline and preference categories for people who are unsuccessful in previous drawings? 6. YES____ NO____

QUESTIONS 7-8. Beaver management and trapping season preferences

In order to address beaver management in a comprehensive manner, Wisconsin adopted a new 2015-2025 Beaver Management Plan (search for *beaver management plan* at dnr.wi.gov). A key recommendation of the plan is to establish population management goals for each zone that would result in a healthy, stable population of beavers across Wisconsin.

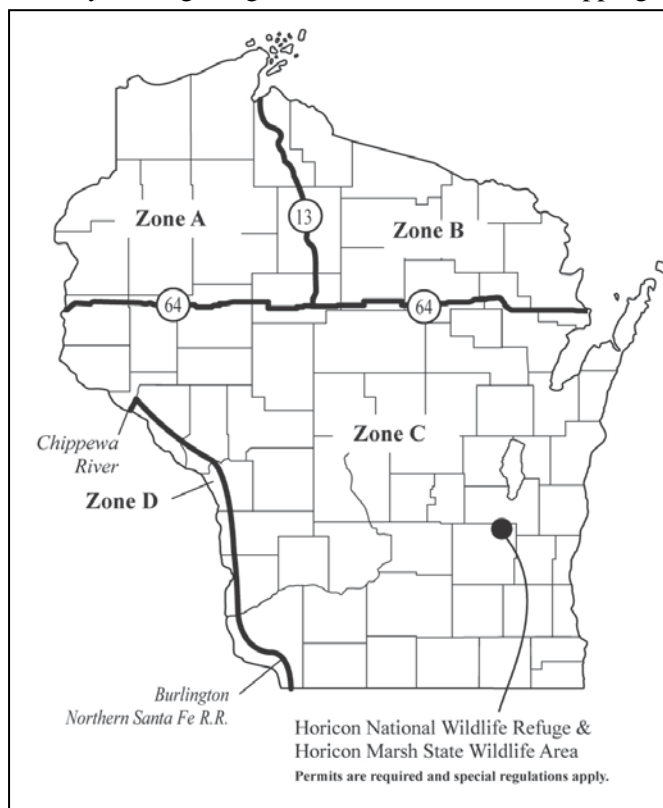
A long term decline in beaver populations across Beaver Management Zones A & B in the northern part of the state has been documented. A primary reason is the long harvest season which was designed to reduce the overall beaver population and to more directly affect beaver presence on priority trout waters. The new management goals are to maintain or slightly increase beavers in these two zones, which would then require a slight reduction in harvest pressure. This could be done by closing the general season for beaver trapping earlier than current rules, while continuing to apply beaver harvest pressure on our best free-flowing cold water trout streams.

Beaver trapping seasons under current rules:

- Zone A: Saturday nearest Nov. 4 – April 30
- Zone B: Saturday nearest Nov. 4 – April 30
- Zone C: Saturday nearest Nov. 4 – March 31
- Zone D: Day after duck season – March 31

The department's Furbearer Advisory Committee and the Beaver Management Task Force (which includes members of the public, other groups, agencies and the department), are considering potential season dates and season frameworks, but no rule proposals have been agreed upon at the time of printing this questionnaire.

The otter harvest season would be adjusted so that it is consistent with the beaver season. Beaver and otter can be trapped in the same locations, using similar methods.



If a shortened season were implemented, the department would monitor beaver populations in Zones A and B. If populations grow beyond the desired level, the season would be lengthened as soon as possible.

-
7. For Beaver Management Zone A, to address goal recommendations of the new beaver management plan, do you support the concept of shortening the general season for beaver and otter trapping by two to four weeks on non-trout waters, yet continue the current trapping season length on waters classified as trout streams? 7. YES____ NO____
-

-
8. For Beaver Management Zone B, to address goal recommendations of the new beaver management plan, do you support the concept of shortening the general season for beaver and otter trapping by two to four weeks on non-trout waters, yet continue the current trapping season length on waters classified as trout streams? 8. YES____ NO____
-

STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 9-10. Shortened regulation change process

Fisheries biologists survey inland lakes and rivers in part to determine if the proper regulation is applied to the waterbody. Often special regulations are put on a lake to cause a change to the fishery. If the change has happened and the population is stable, biologists may want to return the regulation to the most common or “statewide” regulation for a fish species.

Currently the process for changing most recreational fishing regulations takes 2 to 3 years and the proposals all have public input at the statewide Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings. The Department is considering methods to change regulations on individual lakes using a local public notice and hearing process, instead of the Spring Hearings, in order to return a regulation to the “statewide” regulation. This would give the Department more flexibility to provide a quicker response to changing conditions.

-
9. Do you favor having a local public notice and input process in place, separate from Spring Hearings, to more quickly change regulations to the most common or “statewide” regulation for a specific fish species on inland waters? 9. YES____ NO____
-

Similarly, when fish consumption advisories are updated each year, they may warrant different regulations on some inland lakes and rivers. Because fish tend to accumulate more contaminants the longer they live in a contaminated waterbody, it is generally safer to eat younger, smaller fish from those waters. The Department is considering methods to change regulations on individual lakes using a local public notice and hearing process, instead of the Spring Hearings, in order to change regulations in response to consumption advisories. One option may be to allow for “no minimum” size limits on walleye, northern pike, and bass species that have “do not eat” advice for a particular waterbody.

-
10. Do you favor having a local public notice and input process in place, separate from Spring Hearings, to more quickly change regulations for specific fish species on inland waters when they are under certain consumption advisories? 10. YES____ NO____
-



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 11. Establishing consistent season end dates for fall turkey, pheasant, gray (Hungarian) partridge, fisher trapping, and archery deer hunting

Historically, a number of hunting seasons ended on the last day of the year. In 2002, the last day of the archery season was changed to the Sunday nearest January 6. This assured that hunting would always be allowed over the entire New Year's holiday weekend, a time when people are likely to have an opportunity to hunt.

The last day continues to be December 31 for fall turkey (zones 1 – 5), pheasant, and Hungarian partridge hunting and for fisher trapping.

Modifying all of the seasons that currently end in December so that the last day would always be the Sunday nearest January 6 may have some advantages. It may be less confusing if all of these seasons end on the same date as the archery deer season. For the small game species and fisher, it would provide additional opportunity at a time of year when many people also have time away from work. A standard last day for these hunting and trapping seasons would allow combination hunts instead of a person only being able to hunt deer on January 1. It may also be more likely that members of a family or group who gather over the holiday would each have a hunting opportunity available to them.

The department anticipates that changing the last day of these seasons would result in only modest changes in harvest that would not affect management of any of those species.

-
11. Do you support modifying the fall turkey (zones 1 – 5 only), pheasant, and Hungarian partridge hunting seasons and the fisher trapping season so that the last day is the Sunday nearest January 6 instead of December 31, consistent with current season for archery deer hunting? 11. YES_____ NO_____
-

QUESTION 12. Exceptions that allow harvest of antlerless deer in units where the department has not established a quota for the harvest of antlerless deer

Wisconsin's deer herd is managed using a variable antlerless quota system which allows permits to be issued at a level necessary to increase, maintain, or decrease deer populations. In units where the population objective is to increase the deer herd, county deer advisory councils have the ability to recommend an antlerless harvest quota of zero (buck-only units).

However, even in units where no bonus antlerless deer permits are issued and free farmland zone antlerless tags are not available, some legal antlerless deer harvest is still occurring. Under state statute, holders of Class A and C permits for hunters with disabilities and certain active duty military personal are issued a statewide antlerless permit that currently allows the harvest of antlerless deer in buck-only units. Under department rules junior deer hunters, age 17 and younger, are also issued one antlerless permit that is valid statewide and allows the harvest of antlerless deer in buck-only units.

To understand the level of antlerless deer harvest in units without an antlerless quota, consider the following information. Note that harvest by Class A and C permit holders and active duty military personal is not described because disabled permit and military status are not recorded when deer are registered.

2012 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 266 in six units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (1,737 square miles of deer range for a kill of 0.15 per square mile).


2013 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 95 during the 9-day season in four units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (1,109 square mile of deer range for a kill of 0.09 per square mile).

2014 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 3,277 during the 9-day season in sixteen units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (13,118 square mile of deer range for a kill of 0.25 per square mile). Note that Douglas, Marinette and Florence counties are not counted because they either had a portion of the unit that had a quota or had high numbers of damage tags.

2015 antlerless harvest by junior hunters: 1,560 during the 9-day season in nine units without an antlerless deer harvest quota (5,132 square miles of deer range for a kill of 0.30 per square mile). Note that Douglas, and Florence counties are not counted because they either had a portion of the unit that had a quota or had high numbers of nuisance tags.

Some people think that allowing the harvest of any antlerless deer in units where it is not otherwise allowed may slow or prevent a buck-only unit from reaching its goal to increase the deer population. In responding to this question, you are asked to weigh the concerns about harvesting antlerless deer and reaching population objectives against the additional hunting opportunity that is available for certain people under current state law and department rules. This would only apply to buck-only units and the antlerless tag issued to these certain individuals would still be valid in all other deer management units.

-
12. Do you support eliminating exceptions that currently allow harvest of antlerless deer in buck-only management units where an antlerless deer quota of zero has been established for the year? 12. YES____ NO____
-



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CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

Please utilize the blue ballot to provide your input on any citizen introduced resolutions.

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress County Meeting that is held in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings annually in April.

For information on the Conservation Congress resolution process, see page 30.

Results of citizen resolutions introduced at the 2016 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website (dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) by April 22, 2016.

NOTES:



Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting

Please utilize the white ballot to provide your input.

(Please note: any numbers in parenthesis following the question title are referencing the resolution(s) from which the question originated.)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 13. Support the Natural Resources Board choosing the DNR Secretary (131015)
(requires legislation)

For seventy years, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) secretary was appointed by the Natural Resources Board (NRB). This changed in 1995 when the position became a cabinet position appointed by the governor.

13. Do you support legislation to return the appointment of the DNR secretary to the NRB? **13. YES**___ **NO**___

QUESTION 14. Eliminate the “artificial-only” restriction from regular season trout regulations

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress has joined the effort to make the rules governing hunting, fishing and trapping more understandable to the state’s sportsmen and women and thus add to their enjoyment of the outdoors. At its most recent meeting, the members of the WCC Rule Simplification Committee advanced a proposal to remove artificial restrictions from all trout waters in Wisconsin. The WCC Executive Council voted to forward the proposal for public input. Surveys of trout anglers in Wisconsin show preferences for the use of both artificial and live baits and this proposal would respect the rights of both. While some studies have shown that post-release mortality of trout caught with bait can exceed that of trout caught with artificial lures, there are no rigorous studies on population-level effects of post-release mortality of trout caught by bait in Wisconsin streams.

14. Do you favor eliminating the "artificial-only" restriction from the regular season trout regulations? **14. YES**___ **NO**___

QUESTION 15. 2011 Wisconsin Act 21 rule process (requires legislation)

In 2011, the legislature passed laws which significantly lengthen the time it takes to adopt administrative rules. Prior to this, rules could be adopted in as few as 12 months. Under current law, it takes a minimum of 18 months to adopt rules. The ability to adopt rules in a shorter time frame allows for more flexible and responsive management of fish and wildlife to meet federal requirements, biological needs, and stakeholder interests for the species in question.

15. Do you favor legislation that would exempt fish and wildlife rules from Act 21? 15. YES___ NO___

BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS
--

QUESTION 16. Applying for a bear tag (510215) (requires legislation)

As more hunters are getting involved in bear hunting, it is taking longer to draw a harvest permit. At present, it can take up to 10 years of accumulating preference points to receive a harvest permit. Hunters must apply for a bear license or preference point at least once every three years to avoid losing accumulated preference points. Knowing it can take up to 10 years to receive a harvest permit, some hunters may wish to apply for up to six years of preference points at one time and to avoid the need to apply annually for a preference point.

16. Do you favor the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and the legislature to introduce a statutory change to allow hunters to apply for preference points up to six years at a time? Hunters would have the ability to request a harvest permit if a hunter would have enough points to draw a tag prior to the six years. Any remaining “pre-purchased” preference points would be lost. 16. YES___ NO___

QUESTION 17. Non-resident black bear preference point price increase (050215) (requires legislation)

The state of Wisconsin charges \$4.50 for a non-resident black bear preference point/license application. Wisconsin currently receives over 100,000 applications for just over 10,000 bear licenses making black bear licenses one of Wisconsin’s most popular big game tags. Many other states charge \$50 or more for preference point license applications for non-resident hunters for their most popular big game tags. Charging non-resident hunters more for preference point/license applications would result in more money available to the Department of Natural Resources which could be earmarked for black bear research. It would also likely result in less competition from non-residents for black bear tags, which may result in shorter wait times for residents to draw black bear tags (currently, it can take up to 10 years to draw a harvest tag).

17. Do you favor the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and the legislature to increase the non-resident black bear preference point/license application fee to \$35? 17. YES___ NO___

CDAC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 18. Division of counties into multiple deer management units (110215)

Under new herd management rules, which began to be implemented in 2014, deer are now managed along county lines. Most counties are single deer management units. In the past, units were aligned along lines of differing geography, or along lines of differing land uses. This avoided large numbers of antlerless permits which were issued to reduce a herd which has reached problem proportions in one part of the unit, from actually being used in another part of the unit where access is easier, but where deer numbers are much lower. Some County Deer Advisory Councils have asked that they be allowed to divide their counties into two or more deer management units to avoid a similar problem.

-
18. Do you support the practice of allowing County Deer Advisory Councils to divide counties into multiple deer management units? 18. YES___ NO___
-

DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 19. Allow the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC's) to extend the archery season to January 31 in the Southern Farmland Zone (520315)

The Natural Resources Board recently adopted rules relating to deer management and hunting, and also implemented the 2012 Deer Trustee's Report. These rules adopted a December 4-day antlerless season statewide in counties that have antlerless quotas. The rule also gives the CDAC's the ability to recommend an antlerless-only holiday hunt from December 24 through January 1. Current season options do not allow the CDAC's that recommend the holiday hunt to also recommend the archery and crossbow season be extended to January 31.

-
19. Do you support allowing the CDAC's in the Southern Farmland Zones that recommend an antlerless holiday hunt, to also have the ability to recommend extending the archery and crossbow season to January 31? 19. YES___ NO___
-

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 20. Repeal the iron mining law (010415, 020215, 090415, 131615, 170315, 280515, 320615, 350515, 410415, 440515, 460415, 630215, 640915) (requires legislation)

2013 Wisconsin Act 1 created a new regulatory framework applicable to ferrous (iron) mining activities. The legislature modified the regulatory process applied to other metallic mines to facilitate review of future iron mining projects. Major changes included imposing a specific review timeline on DNR, removing the mandatory contested case hearing held before issuance of permits, and changing review processes and decision-making criteria related to wetlands, navigable waters, mining waste facilities, groundwater quality and water withdrawals. Iron mining projects are typically large in scale and could affect several thousand acres of land and the water resources in the vicinity of the project. The recently withdrawn GTAC Project in Iron County would have been located in the headwaters of the Bad River, which flows north to Lake Superior through the Kakagon Bad River Sloughs, a national natural landmark and a wetland of international importance.

20. Are you in favor of repealing Act 1, the iron mining law from 2013? 20. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 21. Moratorium on new state permits for frac sand mining and processing (090115, 110515, 120215, 131515, 180315, 240315, 280315, 460615, 480215, 560415, 580215, 630115, 640815, 690215) (requires legislation)

The industrial sand, commonly called frac sand, mining and processing industry has experienced rapid growth in some portions of Wisconsin containing economic deposits of frac sand material. The mining and processing operations involve thousands of acres of land and millions of tons of product and waste materials. These operations can have a direct impact on storm water runoff, groundwater recharge, and air quality on and directly adjacent to mining and processing sites. In response to public concerns and regulatory issues the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board has authorized a Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining to be completed in 2016. The study will provide scientific information for those making future frac sand regulatory decisions.

21. Are you in favor of the legislature imposing a moratorium on new state permits for frac sand mining and processing until any recommendations that may be developed following the completion of the Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining can be implemented? 21. YES____ NO____

QUESTIONS 22-23. Ban lead from sporting ammunition and fishing tackle (131915)

Lead has been removed by law from consumer products such as gasoline and paint to reduce the amount of lead being discharged to the environment and to protect human and animal health. Non-lead shot is required for waterfowl hunting. Lead in sporting ammunition and fishing tackle is a source of lead poisoning for wildlife. Venison from deer harvested by hunters using lead ammunition has been identified as containing lead fragments. Many other states have adopted lead restrictions on a wide variety of lands and waters.

22. Do you support the DNR requiring non-toxic shot on all department managed lands? 22. YES____ NO____

23. Do you support the DNR requiring non-toxic fishing tackle under ½ ounce in weight? 23. YES____ NO____

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 24. Single dry land trapping opener (500315)

In 2015, raccoon, fox, and early bobcat hunting and trapping seasons, and fisher and coyote trapping seasons opened October 17. If there had been a wolf season, by statute, it would have opened on October 15. To simplify regulations, to reduce conflicts between trappers and bird hunters, and to take advantage of better fur conditions and fur values, some trappers have suggested that there should be a single dry land trapping opener on November 1. Hunting season openers for those same species would not change.

24. Do you support a single dry land trapping opener of November 1? (Note: changing the opening date of the wolf season would require a change in state statute). 24. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 25. Establish an otter bag limit (230214)

To harvest an otter in Wisconsin, a trapper must first be awarded a harvest permit through a lottery process. They do not receive a permit every year. Populations are estimated statewide, then the available permits are divided between the three units based on past experience in each unit. Many trappers believe that populations are higher than estimated. They are frustrated that they are unable to trap otters every year, and can rarely take more than one otter per year. It is suggested that a system similar to neighboring states with a season bag limit for all trappers of two otters each season, would create more opportunities. They believe that current otter numbers would support this increased harvest.

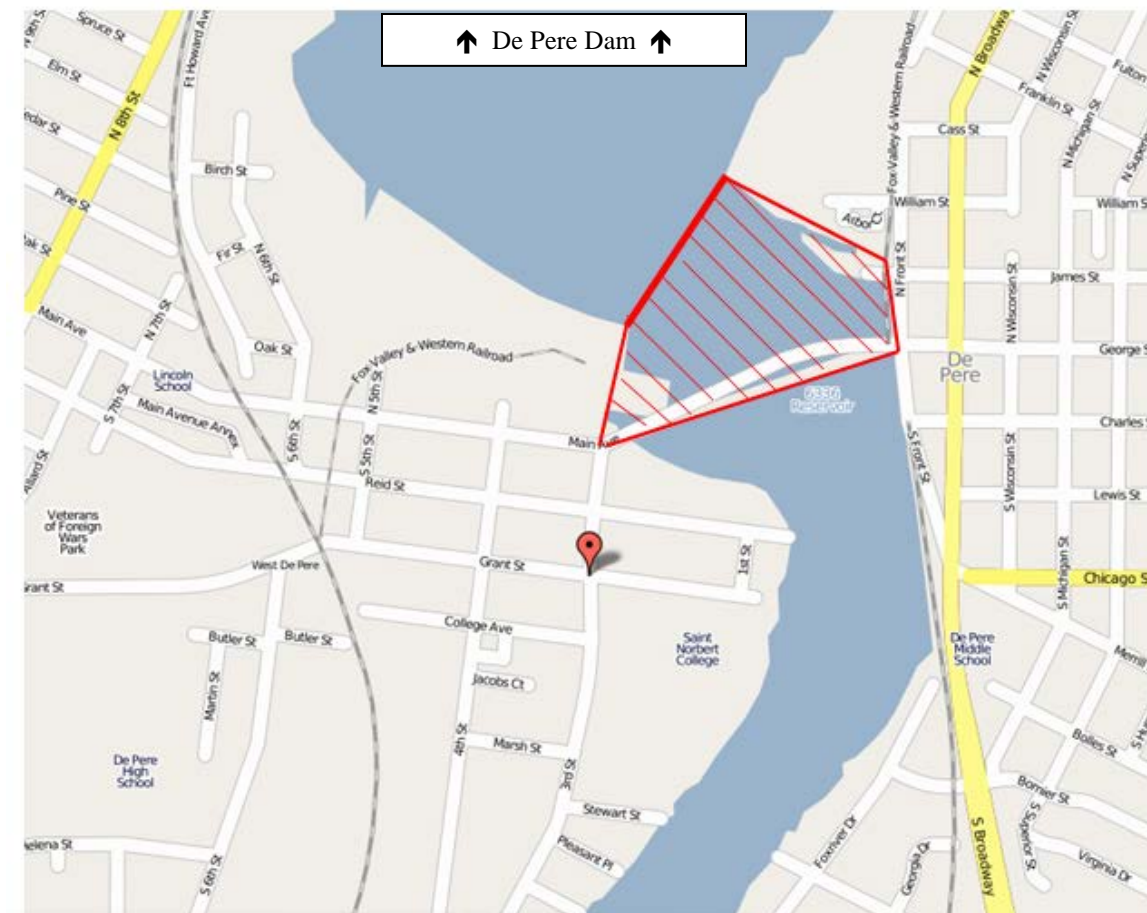
25. Do you support an otter season with no lottery, and a season bag limit of two per licensed trapper? 25. YES____ NO____

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 26. Modification of the early season walleye fishing in the Fox River (050515)

Current fishing regulations and new access to the river along the river walk in De Pere has increased access for anglers to this popular area during the spring walleye run. Night fishing creates unique challenges for law enforcement and illegal activities can be more difficult to detect at night. A night fishing prohibition area, similar to those found on the Peshtigo and Oconto River systems, could be established to assist law enforcement in reducing the illegal activity in this area during the spring walleye spawning run. (See the proposed area on the map.)

- 26.** Would you support a nighttime fishing prohibition during the spring walleye spawning run (March 1 to the regular fishing opener) within the shaded area below the De Pere Dam on the map? **26.** YES____ NO____



LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 27. Hunting and trapping on DNR lands at Strawberry Creek (150215)

The WI DNR currently operates a fish hatchery on two contiguous forty acre parcels on Strawberry Lane in Sturgeon Bay, Door County. These 80 acres are designated as a fish hatchery which by State Statute 29.089(1) precludes hunting or trapping on the property. The department only uses a small portion (approximately 5 acres) for fish hatchery activities. The remaining area is suitable to hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor activities that would not impact the fish hatchery operations and could provide a valuable opportunity for outdoor activities on property already owned by the Department.

This proposal would have the Department make a request to the Natural Resources Board to re-designate the areas of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not used by the fish hatchery as a statewide fish habitat area rather than as a fish hatchery. This re-designation would open this acreage to public use.

-
27. Do you favor the DNR making a request to the NRB to re-designate the portion of the Strawberry Creek Fish Hatchery property not utilized by hatchery activities to a statewide fish habitat area, thus opening the acreage to public use? 27. YES____ NO____
-

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 28. Senior Citizen Conservation Patron License (requires legislation)

The current cost of a Conservation Patron License is \$165 for persons 18 years and older. For anyone age 12-17, a Conservation Patron License is \$75. Senior Citizen Fishing and Senior Citizen Small Game Licenses are offered at a reduced price.

-
28. Do you favor legislation creating a Senior Citizen Conservation Patron License? 28. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 29. Initiate the selling of gift certificates for DNR licenses, fees, permits (270315) (requires legislation)

Every year thousands of people enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources. The use of many of our natural resources requires the purchase of a license, permit, or other fee. While there are many ways these can be purchased, there is currently no opportunity for someone to provide others a license, permit, or pay a fee as a gift.

-
29. Do you support the DNR working with the legislature to create and implement the opportunity for customers to purchase gift certificates that can be used by others towards the purchase of DNR licenses, permits, or fees? 29. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 30. Increase scientific, professional natural resource management in the Wisconsin DNR (130215) (requires legislation)

In 1928, sportsmen and women successfully fought to establish a citizen board to oversee natural resource management in Wisconsin and to authorize that board to appoint professional natural resource managers to oversee the natural resource agency. In 1995, the legislature, while retaining the Natural Resources Board as the decision-making body for the agency, made the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the top managers for the DNR political appointees. In the past twenty years, under administrations of both parties, many senior managers have been appointed that do not have any significant education or applied experience in natural resource management.

-
30. Do you favor legislation that would require at least two of the three senior DNR managers (Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Deputy Secretary) to have either an educational degree in natural resource management and five years of applied natural resource management or ten years of applied natural resource management before they are appointed? 30. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 31. License fee increase (640315) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin has not had a license fee increase in over 8 years. A two to three dollar per license increase on average would potentially raise \$4-6 million or more. This additional money could allow the DNR to fund more biologists and wardens to better protect and understand the resources and ensure quality experiences for all resource users.

-
31. Do you support the legislature increasing hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees? 31. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 32. Registration of non-motorized watercraft (670215) (requires legislation)

Currently non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, etc) do not have to be registered. These watercraft utilize the services of the DNR aquatic biologists as do motorized watercraft and non-motorized watercraft can spread invasive species as can motorized watercraft. Also, if any kayak or canoe is found floating empty, law enforcement has no way of finding out who it belongs to or if someone is missing. A fee of \$15/3 years could generate as much as \$1.5 million in revenue (estimate based on 100,000 non-motorized watercraft) and could be utilized for prevention of invasive species. Groups with multiple non-motorized watercraft or unique circumstances (ex. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc) could pay a special group fee.

-
32. Do you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and legislature to establish a non-motorized watercraft fee? 32. YES____ NO____
-

MIGRATORY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 33. Removal of waterfowl blinds on public lands (680315) (requires legislation)

Permanent waterfowl blinds are allowed on public water/land beginning 7 days prior to the start of any waterfowl season and must be removed within 7 days of the end of the waterfowl season.

Because of poor late season access and difficulty locating or identifying the builder of these blinds, many are not removed. The result can be dangerous or unsightly materials left in the water or on land which can become a hazard to boaters, swimmers, hikers and animals (mostly dogs). This law may also contribute to the perception of public land being reserved or “off-limits” around the area of the permanent blind.

-
33. Do you favor legislation that would repeal the law that allows permanent waterfowl blinds on public water/lands? Waterfowl blinds that are removed at the end of each day would be allowed. 33. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 34. End the 16-day 1:00 pm closure in Mead Wildlife Area (370415)

The Mead Wildlife Area currently has a 16-day 1:00 pm closure of the waterfowl season to provide a refuge for waterfowl. The closure prolongs the length of time the birds stay in the area and are available to hunters. However, those hunters that wish to or are only able to hunt in the afternoon are not able to utilize the Mead because of this closure. The current 1:00 pm closure is a result of positive annual surveys of hunters who have used the Mead Wildlife Area from 2009-2014 and have shown support for the 1:00 pm closure ranging from 65%-79%.

-
34. Do you favor repealing the 16-day 1:00 pm closure for waterfowl hunting at the Mead Wildlife Area? 34. YES____ NO____
-

OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 35. Raise public awareness of DNR / conservation efforts for all Wisconsinites (130915)

Some Wisconsin citizens are uninformed or misinformed about the policies, practices, and priorities for Wisconsin natural resources.

-
35. Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR and Natural Resources Board to explore new ways to raise public awareness, consciousness, and improve stewardship for Wisconsin’s natural resources that are beneficial to all people? 35. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 36. Learn-to-Hunt participation (140215)

Current regulations limit participation in Learn-to-Hunt events to no more than one event per species. Learn-to-Hunt was put into place as a tool for recruiting and training new hunters. Research has indicated that participation in more than one event may be needed to educate and retain new hunters.

-
36. Would you support allowing individuals to participate in two Learn-to-Hunt events per species under current mentoring regulations? 36. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 37. Wildlife Conservation Stamp (130515) (requires legislation)

Non-consumptive resource users have fewer opportunities to support conservation in Wisconsin. Creating a voluntary Wildlife Conservation Stamp could provide a revenue source for managing Wisconsin public lands, preserving habitat and wildlife, and give non-consumptive users a funding tool for species and habitat projects that are sometimes passed over in favor of game animal priorities.

-
37. Would you support legislation to create a Wildlife Conservation Stamp that would generate funds to help support DNR budgets for conservation efforts for all wildlife? 37. YES____ NO____
-

TROUT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION
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QUESTION 38. Alternate bag limits for Wisconsin's trout fisheries (020315, 040615, 131215, 240215, 260215, 330215, 370615, 450215, 460215, 480115, 490315, 520615, 560315, 700215)

The DNR has the authority under s. NR 20.35, Wis. Adm. Code, to set alternate, temporary size and/or bag limits for warm water fish species such as walleye, largemouth and small mouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, northern pike, and panfish in order to provide for better use and management of the fishery resource in a particular waterbody. The alternate limits are intended to be temporary, corrective measures applied to species currently managed under general statewide size and bag limits. No such option for temporary size and bag limits currently exists for trout species (brook, brown, rainbow) in NR 20.35.

-
38. Do you support amending NR 20.35 to include—by name—the three trout species of our state (brook, brown, rainbow) and an alternate temporary size limit and bag limit for each that would apply under certain circumstances alongside the warm water species already protected via listing in the administrative code? 38. YES____ NO____
-

TURKEY & UPLAND GAME COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 39. Allowing unfilled spring turkey permits to be used in 5th and 6th hunting seasons (520215)

Results from the DNR's spring turkey hunter questionnaire, indicate over 65% of respondents believe the separate 6-week time periods are important to maintain a quality spring turkey hunting experience. However, a hunter may experience unforeseen circumstances (land access, health issues, permit availability, schedule conflicts, inclement weather, etc.) that may limit or hinder their ability to hunt in the zone or time period that they may have applied and purchased their permit for under the current six-period spring turkey season.

39. Would you be in favor of expanding spring turkey hunting opportunities while maintaining the existing six-period season structure by allowing unsuccessful turkey permit holders from time periods 1,2,3, and 4 the use of their unfilled permits during the 5th and 6th time periods in their specific zone? 39. YES____ NO____

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 40. Reopening the year round walleye fishing season on the Lower Black River (270415)

Anglers are currently not allowed to keep or fish for walleyes during the closed season (first Sunday in March to the first Saturday in May) on the Lower Black River. More consistent and regulated water releases at the dam, watershed improvements and other factors have contributed to making the Lower Black River the fishery it is today. By allowing the walleye season to be open year round, only a small amount of time would be added to actual angler effort. Ice break up and high flows from snow melt along with precipitation events would limit the amount of time anglers can actually pursue walleyes in the spring. The walleye population would be further protected by current statewide minimum length limits or slot length and bag limits. Opening the walleye season year round would provide additional recreational opportunities.

40. Do you favor opening the walleye season year round on the Lower Black River? (Jackson, Monroe, Trempealeau, and La Crosse counties) 40. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 41. Increasing the musky size limit on Trout Lake (Vilas County) to 50 inches (640715)

Trout Lake has the size, population density and forage base consistent with development of fish to a trophy size of 50 inches or more. Management of Trout Lake to "trophy" potential may benefit local economies with increased tourism. Trout Lake currently has a minimum length limit of 45" for muskellunge.

41. Do you favor raising the minimum size limit for muskies on Trout Lake from 45 inches to 50 inches? The daily bag limit would remain one fish. 41. YES____ NO____

QUESTIONS 42. Holding fish for personal gain

In the past, fish have been retained with the intent to keep them alive for later use in tournaments, photo opportunities, and for guides to misleadingly promote their business. Some of these fish are retained for weeks. Many people feel that this is unethical. No current law prevents this activity.

-
42. Would you favor a rule that would prohibit anyone who receives or may receive compensation for fishing activities from storing live game fish with any unattended storage device on any body of water beyond the day of catch? 42. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 43. Elimination of size limit on largemouth bass on Diamond Lake, Bayfield County (040415)

Historically, Diamond Lake has been primarily a walleye and smallmouth bass fishery. In recent times, the population of largemouth bass has increased significantly. Other area lakes with similar circumstances have instituted reductions in size limits on largemouth bass to reduce their populations, and improve walleye fishing.

-
43. Would you favor eliminating the size limit on largemouth bass in Diamond Lake? 43. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 44. Muskellunge size limit increase on North and South Twin Lake, Vilas County (640615)

North and South Twin Lakes have the size, population density, and forage base consistent with development of fish to trophy size of 50 inches and more. Raising the minimum size limit for musky may benefit local economies due to increased tourism.

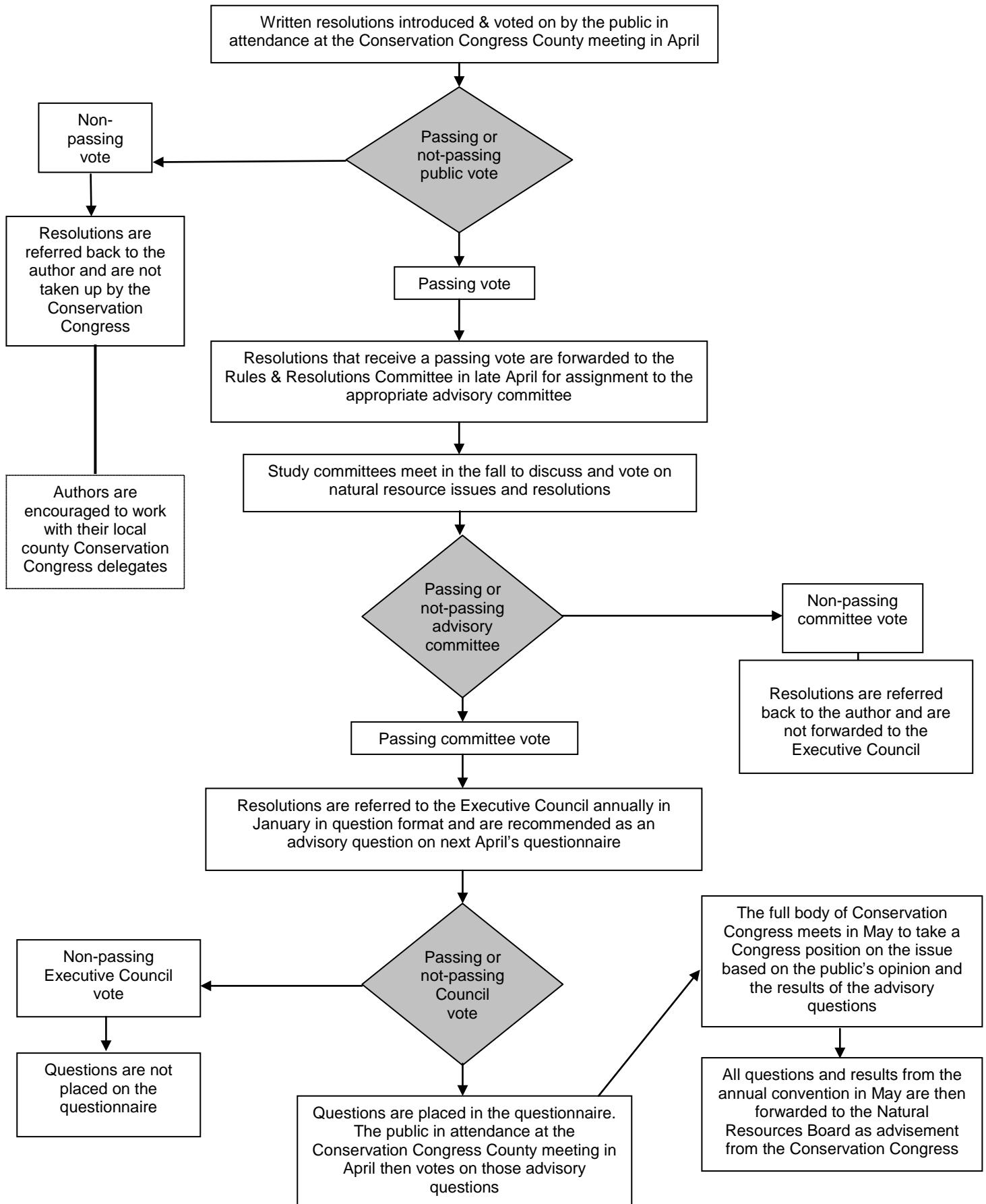
-
44. Would you support a rule change to raise the minimum size limit for muskellunge on North and South Twin Lakes from 40 inches to 50 inches? The daily bag limit would remain one fish. 44. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 45. Reduce Yellow Perch daily bag limit on Bearskin Lake, Oneida County (440115)

Rusty Crayfish are an invasive species present in Bearskin Lake. Yellow perch, nine inches or longer, are effective predators on Rusty Crayfish. Currently there is a 25 per day bag limit on Yellow Perch in Bearskin Lake. A reduction of the bag limit on Yellow Perch to 10 per day may allow more perch to remain in the lake and grow to a size that could have an impact on the Rusty Crayfish population.

-
45. Would you support lowering the daily bag limit of Yellow Perch in Bearskin Lake from 25 fish per day to 10 fish per day? 45. YES____ NO____
-

The Conservation Congress Resolution Process



How to Write a Resolution

Resolution Content

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

Resolution Format

- ✓ The resolutions must be typed or legible hand written 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less, on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

Resolution Presentation

- Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Provide the Congress County Chair with **TWO COPIES** of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Sample Resolution

Title: Spring Dinosaur Hunting Season

The Problem:

Dinosaurs are a threat to agriculture across the state, especially in April and May, because they make deep footprints in newly planted farm fields, damaging the emerging crops. The problem is aggravated in southern Wisconsin, because dinosaurs are migrating across the state line to avoid hunting pressure in Illinois.

There is already an overpopulation of dinosaurs in Wisconsin.

At present, state law does not permit dinosaur hunting at any time during the year. We feel that Wisconsin law should be consistent with Illinois, which permits dinosaur hunting in the spring.

Wisconsin farmers are suffering significant crop damage because of dinosaur incursions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 14, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing a spring dinosaur hunting season.

Name of Author: Fred Flintstone

Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen

Address: W12345 State Road 3

City, State, Zip Code: Bedrock, Wisconsin 54231

Name of the County Introducing In: Buffalo

Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789

**See WCC
Resolution
Process
(page 30)**

**Thank you
for attending this year's
meeting!**



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing**

&

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



**Interested in making a difference
by becoming part of the
Wisconsin Conservation Congress?**

**Talk to one of your local delegates or visit the
Conservation Congress website at:
dnr.wi.gov – search “Conservation Congress”**